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17 September 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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17 September 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

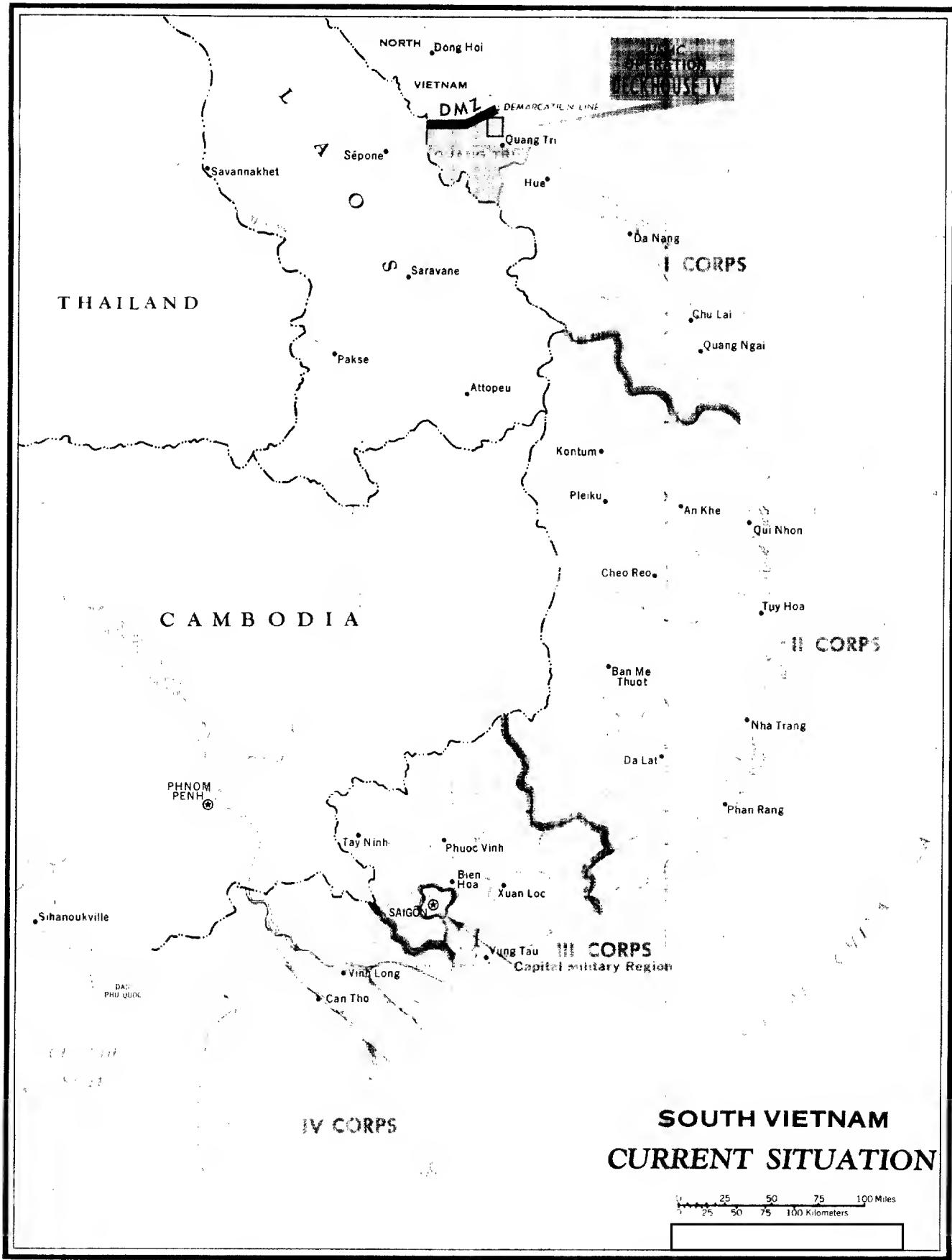
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3. Notes: [] Uruguay; Guyana; []
(Page 3)

25X6

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17 Sep 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 September 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The most significant military activity during the past 48 hours has been near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in northern-most Quang Tri Province.

On 15 September, a Marine patrol participating in search-and-destroy Operation DECK HOUSE IV encountered 100 enemy soldiers immediately south of the DMZ. During the brief but heavy fighting that followed, one American was killed and 10 wounded. Communist losses included nine killed and 10 suspects captured.

Light contact was also reported yesterday as US forces continue to sweep the coastal marshlands just below the DMZ seeking elements of the North Vietnamese Army 324B Division. (Map)

North Vietnamese Military Developments: US F-4C jet fighters fought another aerial engagement with North Vietnamese MIGs on 16 September northeast of Hanoi. One Communist MIG-17 was shot down by an air-to-air missile and one of the US F-4s is missing. The cause of the US aircraft loss has not yet been determined, since there was a considerable amount of anti-aircraft and missile fire in the area of the engagement.

Three other flights of US aircraft reported seeing numerous North Vietnamese fighters, although no other engagements were reported. This is the second straight day that MIG activity has been at a high level and may be indicative of a new period of aggressiveness by the North Vietnamese Air Force.

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NOTES

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Uruguay: The 24-hour general strike on 15 September is the first major strike Uruguayan Communists have been able to engineer on a basically political issue. Although publicizing legitimate economic grievances was one of the strike's aims, its major objective was to demonstrate labor's repudiation of the bipartisan constitutional reform proposal supported by large factions of the two traditional parties. The success of this strike and the government's apparent inertia are likely to encourage the Communists to increase labor agitation in the period before November's general elections. [redacted]

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Guyana: The sharp political and personal differences between Prime Minister Burnham and Finance Minister D'Aguiar are so serious that a split could occur with little warning during the next few months. A falling out between the two leaders would not necessarily cause a breakup of the coalition between their parties, but the government's small majority in the legislature would be endangered by any major change in the present bipartisan arrangement. The departure of the remaining British troops scheduled for 31 October will remove a stabilizing factor. [redacted]

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17 Sep 66

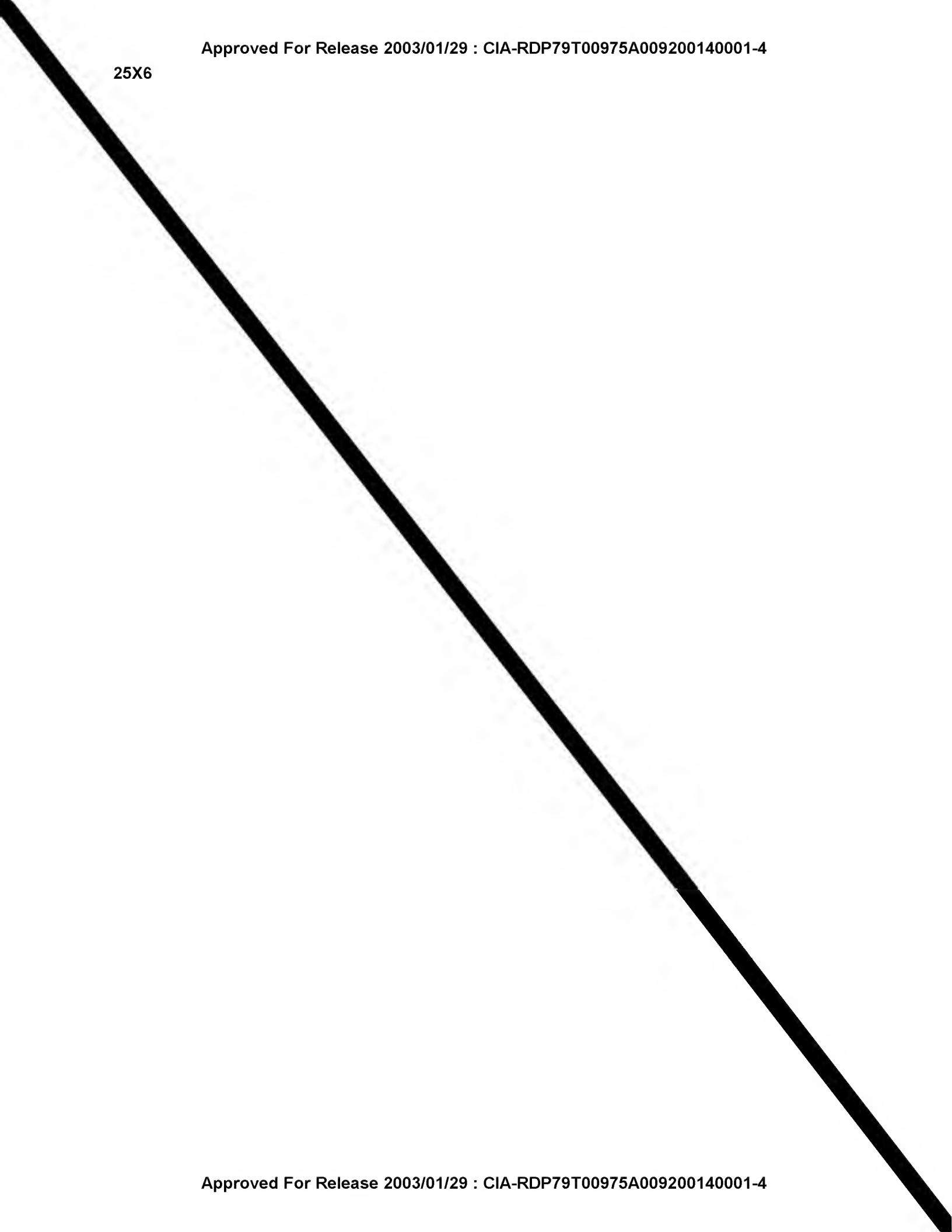
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